# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE NATIONAL FORESTS in NORTH CAROLINA NANTAHALA and PISGAH NATIONAL FORESTS

### Climbing Site Closure to protect peregrine falcon nesting

#### Amendment to Order Number 01-02-2004

Pursuant to 36 CFR, Sec. 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the areas listed below and further described on the attached list and maps within the National Forests in North Carolina:

 It is prohibited to go into or be upon the areas within the orange painted or posted boundaries from January 15 to August 15 of each year. This closure is in effect for the protection of peregrine falcon nesting sites (36 CFR 261.53 (a)). This closure order is effective January 16, 2009 through January 15, 2014.

### Areas to Which This Order Applies:

#### Nantahala National Forest

· Whiteside Mountain, Jackson County, Nantahala Ranger District

#### Pisgah National Forest

- Big Lost Cove Cliffs, Avery County, Grandfather Ranger District
- Linville Gorge (North Carolina Wall & Shortoff Mountain), Burke County, Grandfather Ranger District
- · Looking Glass Rock, Transylvania County, Pisgah Ranger District
- · Victory Wall, Transylvania County, Pisgah Ranger District
- Whiterock Cliff, Madison County, Appalachian Ranger District

Pursuant to 35 CFR, Sec. 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

- (1) Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
- (2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

A site not used by falcons or a site where nesting terminates before August 15th, may be opened to public use, as determined by the District Ranger.

Executed in Asheville, North Carolina this 25th day of February, 2011.

MARISUE HILLIARD

Forest Supervisor

National Forests in North Carolina

Violation of these prohibitions set forth above is punishable by a fine or not more than \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. See 16 U.S.C. 551, 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571.

# 2011 North Carolina Peregrine Falcon Climbing Site Closures

| Site Name                 | Area Closed  | Landowner         |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Whiteside Mountain        | All climbing routes between and including Southwest Arete      | USFS, Nantahala   |
|                           | and Mainline are closed.                                       | Ranger District   |
|                           |  | (828) 524-6441    |
| NC Wall (Linville Gorge)  | All climbing routes between and including Tightrope and        | USFS, Grandfather |
|                           | Bumblebee Buttress are closed                                  | Ranger District   |
|                           |  | (828) 652-2144    |
| Shortoff Mountain         | All climbing routes between and including C.O. to and          | USFS, Grandfather |
| (Linville Gorge)          | including Paradigm Shift are closed.                           | Ranger District   |
|                           |  | (828) 652-2144    |
| Big Lost Cove Cliffs      | All climbing routes are closed.                                | USFS, Grandfather |
|                           |  | Ranger District   |
|                           |  | (828) 652-2144    |
| Looking Glass Rock        | All routes to the right* of Glass Menagerie and to the left of | USFS, Pisgah      |
| (North Face)              | and including Twisted Laurel on the North Face of Looking      | Ranger District   |
|                           | Glass Rock are closed.   | (828) 877-3350    |
| Victory Wall**            | All climbing routes are closed.                                | USFS, Pisgah      |
|                           |  | Ranger District   |
|                           |  | (828) 877-3380    |
| Whiterock Cliff and Eagle | All climbing routes are closed                                 | USFS, Appalachian |
| Cliff                     |  | Ranger District   |
|                           |  | (828) 682-6146    |

<sup>\*</sup> As seen from the base of Looking Glass Rock

Climbing route names are taken from: Kelley, Thomas. 1995. The Climber's Guide to North Carolina 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Earthbound Sports Inc., Chapel Hill, NC 332pp. and from Lambert and Shull. 2002. Selected Climbs in North Carolina. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. The Mountaineers Books. Seattle, WA. 326pp.

All sites are closed from January 15 - August 15; except that in the event that falcons are not using the site or nesting terminates at an earlier date than August 15<sup>th</sup>, the site may be opened to public use, as determined by the appropriate landowners. The specified closed (or open) routes will change if the falcons nest on a part of the cliff outside the existing closed area, or if they do not nest in an existing closed area, as determined by monitoring throughout the breeding season.

Eagle Cliff, Appalachian Ranger District, is closed for protection of rare plants.

This summary of climbing-site closures represents the best available knowledge regarding closure orders issued by the U.S. Forest Service and North Carolina State Parks as compiled by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission works in collaboration with the above landowners to recommend closure areas that protect peregrine falcon nest sites and minimize restrictions on climbers. Changes in the specific closures, and publication of the notices are the responsibility of the respective landowners.











